



March 26, 2015

Dear Arborway Stakeholder,

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recently conducted the initial phases of a public process aimed at obtaining stakeholder and public input on design solutions for providing improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along the Arborway between Kelley Circle and the Casey Arborway project. DCR's underlying objective with this project is to provide a high-quality experience that connects people to the parks, expands a multi-modal transportation network, and accommodates users of all ages and abilities.

Kicking off the public process, during the week of February 2, 2015, DCR and the project consultant, Toole Design Group, conducted a stakeholder charrette with state and local public officials and representatives of area bicycle advocacy organizations and of local community organizations and two public meetings. During the charrette and first public meeting, participants discussed their major concerns about the Arborway, which were primarily focused on high speeds of motorists, complexity of the traffic circles, disconnected pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and preservation of historic trees. As a result of the input received during these conversations, a "starter idea" was developed and presented at a second public meeting, held at the end of the week and followed by a public comment period extending through March 20, 2015.

While the original scope for the design project was to develop safe and accessible bicycle facilities in the subject area, it had become clear during this early phase in the public process that high-quality bicycle and pedestrian accommodations were not feasible due to the size and complexity of the traffic circles. Therefore, the "starter idea" presented at the second public meeting included modifications to the roadway and traffic circles. Moving forward, the project will be corridor-wide and address improved connections along the historic parkway for bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists.

DCR has received a significant amount of input received from stakeholders and the public, both during the meetings that were held and the subsequent public comment period. DCR and Toole Design are currently compiling and analyzing the comments received. These comments, along with additional traffic analyses to be conducted by Toole Design, will all be helpful as we proceed further in the design process.

It is important to note that no decisions have been made, the meetings held to date represent only the beginning of continuing conversations DCR will have with the community in connection with this project. We encourage you to share with your neighbors or other interested parties a

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link to the DCR website, <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/material-from-past-2015-meetings.html> , where the presentations made to the public to date, as well as a narrative and drawings regarding the “starter idea” are posted. We hope that you and they will join us for our next public meeting, where a refined “starter idea” will be presented. We expect that this meeting will be held in mid-May.

In closing, DCR would like to thank the community for the high degree of public participation in the design process for this exciting project, and we look forward to a continuing healthy ongoing dialogue with you as we seek to address issues of safety and access along the Arborway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JPM' or similar, written over a faint circular stamp.

John P. Murray
Commissioner